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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-04 /009 R

66646

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APPROVED BY: AF/EPS: G. R. KENNEY

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R 282215 Z JUN 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USINT ALGIERS

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THE FOLLOWING SENT ACTIONSECSTATE INFO BONN, COPENHAGEN, BRUSSELS
LONDON, LUXEMBOURG, MADRID, PARIS, RABAT, ROME , TEL AVIV,
THE HAGUE, TUNIS , VALLETTA, GENEVA, OECD PARIS
FROM EC BRUSSELS 27 JUNE 1973 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 3571

E. O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, AG, MO, TS, SP, IS

SUBJ: JUNE 25-26 EC COUNCIL: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3375

1. SUMMARY:. AT ITS JUNE 26 MEETING, THE EC CUUNCIL
OF MINISTERS REACHED AGREEMENT ON A MANDATE FOR
NEGOTIATIONS WITH ALGERIA, MORROCCO, UNISIA, SPAIN
AND ISRAEL. THE MANDATE WILL INCLUDE THE AGRICULTURAL
POSITION ADOPTED LAST WEEK BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTERS,
FREE ENTRY FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS, SOCIAL
SECURITY PROVISIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS, AND FINANCIAL
AND TECHNICAL AID. THE QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY AND
REVERSE PREFERENCES IS SOMEWHAT CONFUSED SO FAR AS THE
MAGHREB COUNTRIES ARE CONCERNED. END SUMMARY.

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2. ON JUNE 26 THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FOREIGN
MINISTERS) REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MANDATE TO BE
GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION FOR NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS
BETWEENTHE COMMUNITY AND ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA,

SPAIN AND ISRAEL. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S DECISIONS IN VARIOUS AREAS.

3. GENERAL: THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT THE TRADE CONCESSIONS IN THE PROSPECTIVE AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED IN TIME. CONCESSIONS RELATED TO THE TREATMENT OF FOREIGN WORKERS AND COOPERATION (AID) POLICY ARE TO BE LIMITED INITIALLY TO FIVE YEARS.

4. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS: THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT, IN GENERAL, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES ARE TO BE GRANTED FREE ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY. SENSITIVE PRODUCT LISTS WERE AGREED TO WITH SOME ITEMS SUBJECT TO INDICATIVE CEILINGS AND OTHERS SUBJECT TO A STRICT SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT PRODUCTS IN THIS SENSITIVE CATEGORY COVER ABOUT 8 PERCENT OF EC IMPORTS FROM SPAIN AND 20 PERCENT OF ITS IMPORTS FROM ISRAEL.) THE NETHERLANDS ACCEPTED THIS PORTION OF THE DECISION ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS BECAUSE OF CONCERN ABOUT CERTAIN UNSPECIFIED SENSITIVE PRODUCTS: WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS PROBABLY WOULD NOT RESULT IN ANY DELAY IN THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE MANDATE.

5. AGRICULTURE: THE MINISTERS ADOPTED THE MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PACKAGE WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED LAST WEEK BY THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS (SEE EC BRUSSELS 3406). WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT AN EVOLUTIONARY CLAUSE -- COVERING POSSIBLE FUTURE CONCESSIONS FOR AGRICULTURE ON A STRICTLY RECIPROCAL BASIS -- WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE SPANISH AND ISRAELI AGREEMENTS. SOME ADDITIONAL " TIDYING UP" IS NECESSARY BEFORE THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSION PACKAGE WILL BE COMPLETED. THE PERM REPS WILL TRY TO FINISH THIS IN THE NEXT TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEEKS.

6. MANPOWER: THE COUNCIL APPROVED THE GRANTING OF SOCIAL SECURITY PROVISIONS TO MIGRANT WORKERS FROM THE FIVE MEDITERRANEAN STATES WHO ARE EMPLOYED WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES. IN GENERAL, SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE FOR THESE WORKERS IS TO BE EQUAL TO THAT OF NATIONALS OF EC MEMBER STATES.

7. THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE AID PROVISIONS OF THE MANDATE, EXCEPT THAT THE BRITISH RESERVED THEIR POSITION UNTIL THEY SEE THE FINAL CALCULATION OF THE AMOUNTS WHICH ARE TO BE PREPARED ONLY IN THE AUTUMN. OUR UK SOURCES

INDICATED QUITE FRANKLY THAT THEY WANTED TO POSTPONE A DECISION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE ON THIS POINT. THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A ROUGH IDEA OF THE COSTS OF THE FUTURE ASSOCIATION WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATED AND COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES WITH REGARD TO AID IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA. THIS PORTION OF THE CONCIL'S DEBATE WAS IN GENERAL TERMS AND NO PRECISE FIGURES WERE DISCUSSED.

8. RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES: THIS PORTION OF THE COUNCIL'S MANDATE TO THE COMMISSION REMAINS UNCLEAR. THE SUBJECT OF RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES WAS DISCUSSED MORE THOROUGHLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ASSOCIATED AND ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES RATHER THAN THE CONTEXT OF MEDITERRANEAN POLICY WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED A LESS IMPORTANT ISSUE. IN ITS MEDITERRANEAN DISCUSSIONS, THE COUNCIL FOCUSED ON THE MAGHREB BECAUSE IT HAS ALREADY AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN AND ISRAEL SHOULD LEAD TO SO-CALLED FREE TRADE AREAS.

9. BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DOUGLAS-HOME STATED THAT THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WOULD RESENT BEING REQUIRED TO GRANT REVERSE PREFERENCES. COMMISSION MEMBER CHEYSSON RESPONDED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WOULD OPT FOR A FREE TRADE AREA APPROACH. THE BELGIANS (IN THE CHAIR) CLAIMED THAT THE AMBASSADORS OF THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES HAD TOLD THEM THAT THEIR COUNTRIES COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH GRANTING REVERSE PREFERENCES TO THE EC. THE FRENCH TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT TAKE AWAY FROM THE MAGHEB COUNTRIES WHAT THEY ALREADY HAVE BEEN GRANTING (SIC) AND THAT THE FTA APPROACH WAS THE APPROPRIATE FORMULA. A QUESTION WAS ALSO RAISED WHETHER THE ISSUE OF RECIPROCITY COULD LEGITIMATELY BE RAISED WITH REGARD TO MOROCCO BECAUSE OF THE TREATY OF ALGECIRAS.

10. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE COUNCIL THEN MOVED ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS AND APPARENTLY DID NOT COME TO A SPECIFIC DECISION ON THE RECIPROCITY AND REVERSE PREFERENCES ISSUE SO FAR AS THE MAGHREB IS CONCERNED. SOAMES AND WELLENSTEIN CONSIDER THAT THE QUESTION IS SETTLED (AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT) IN FAVOR OF THE FREE TRADE AREA APPROACH FOR ALL FIVE COUNTRIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, MEMBER STATE SOURCES, SOME OF WHOM PARTICIPATED IN THE DISCUSSIONS, ARE UNCLEAR ON WHERE THE ISSUE STANDS. SOME SOURCES CLAIM THAT BY LEAVING THE ISSUE UNCLEAR THE COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES DURING THE NEGOTIATION. IF THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES WERE TO REFUSE TO OFFER RECIPROCITY THE ISSUE COULD THEN BE RETURNED TO THE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. (THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WILL BE

WATCHING CAREFULLY HOW THIS ISSUE IS RESOLVED WITH REGARD TO
THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE127514
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/ EPS: G. R. KENNEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730635/abqcemrr.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: EC BRUSSELS 3375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980302
Subject: JUNE 25-26 EC COUNCIL: MEDITERRANEAN POLICY
TAGS: ETRD, AG, IS, MO, SP, TS, EEC
To: ALGIERS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005